



Tiguentourine Natural Gas Refinery Attack

In Amenas, Illizi, Algeria
16-19 January 2013

Presented by:
Joseph Trindal
jtrindal@policeone.com

Joseph Trindal, PPS



Relevant Background:

- 20 years U.S. Marshals Service
 - Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal and Incident Cmdr, ERT
 - Managed CBRNE Threats to Judiciary and Key Assets
- Plankowner (2003) at DHS – Director FPS/NCR
 - Managed LE Ops and Protective Prep for 800 High Risk Facilities
 - Managed Anthrax, Rad, and IED Threats
- Original Development Lead of CFATS Regulation
- Marine Veteran with 2nd MarDiv Deployments
- Ops & Advisory Experience in Middle East, Asia, Europe, Central & South America
- Degrees in Criminal Justice & Police Science
- Adjunct Instructor at George Washington Univ in WMD

Outline

- 🏠 Petrochemical Targets
- 🏠 Geopolitical Trajectory
- 🏠 Statoil Gas Fields at In Amenas, Algeria
- 🏠 Militant Planning
- 🏠 Attack Sequence
- 🏠 Response Actions
- 🏠 Resolution
- 🏠 Lessons Learned



Situational Context



OCT 2002 – Dubrovka Theater



JUN 1995 – Budyonnovsk Hospital Hostage Crisis



SEP 2004 – Beslan School No. 1

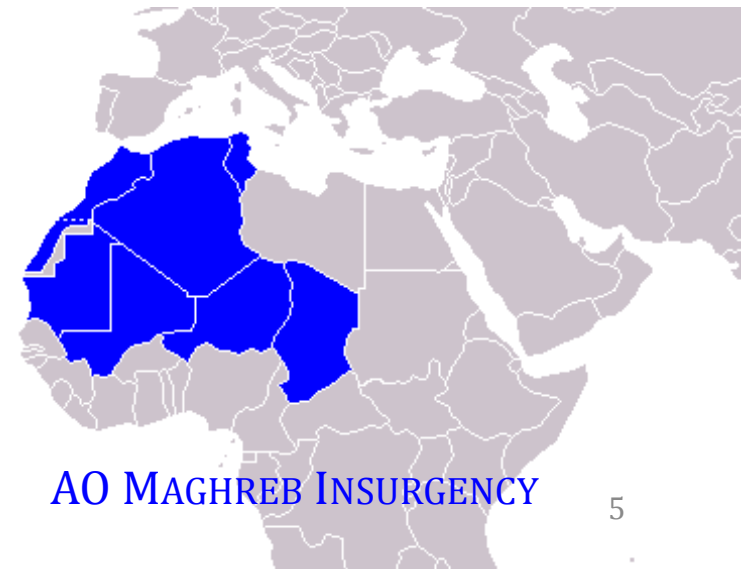
Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

تنظيم القاعدة في بلاد المغرب الإسلامي

- 🕌 *Formerly Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat*
- 🕌 *Organized in 1998*
- 🕌 *Ambush; Kidnapping; VBIED; Suicide Bombing; 2013 – Complex Siege*
- 🕌 *Targets – Algerian Gov't; Western Tourists & Business*
- 🕌 *≈ 2007 AQ Infiltrates*
- 🕌 *Dec 2010 Arab Spring Begins*
- 🕌 *2012 Mali Conflict Intensifies*
- 🕌 *2013 “Signed-in-Blood” attacks Tigantourine Facility*



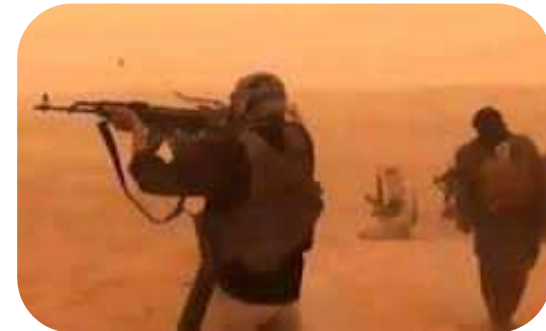
تَنْظِيمُ الْقَاعِدَةِ فِي بِلَادِ الْمَغْرِبِ الْإِسْلَامِيِّ



AO MAGHREB INSURGENCY

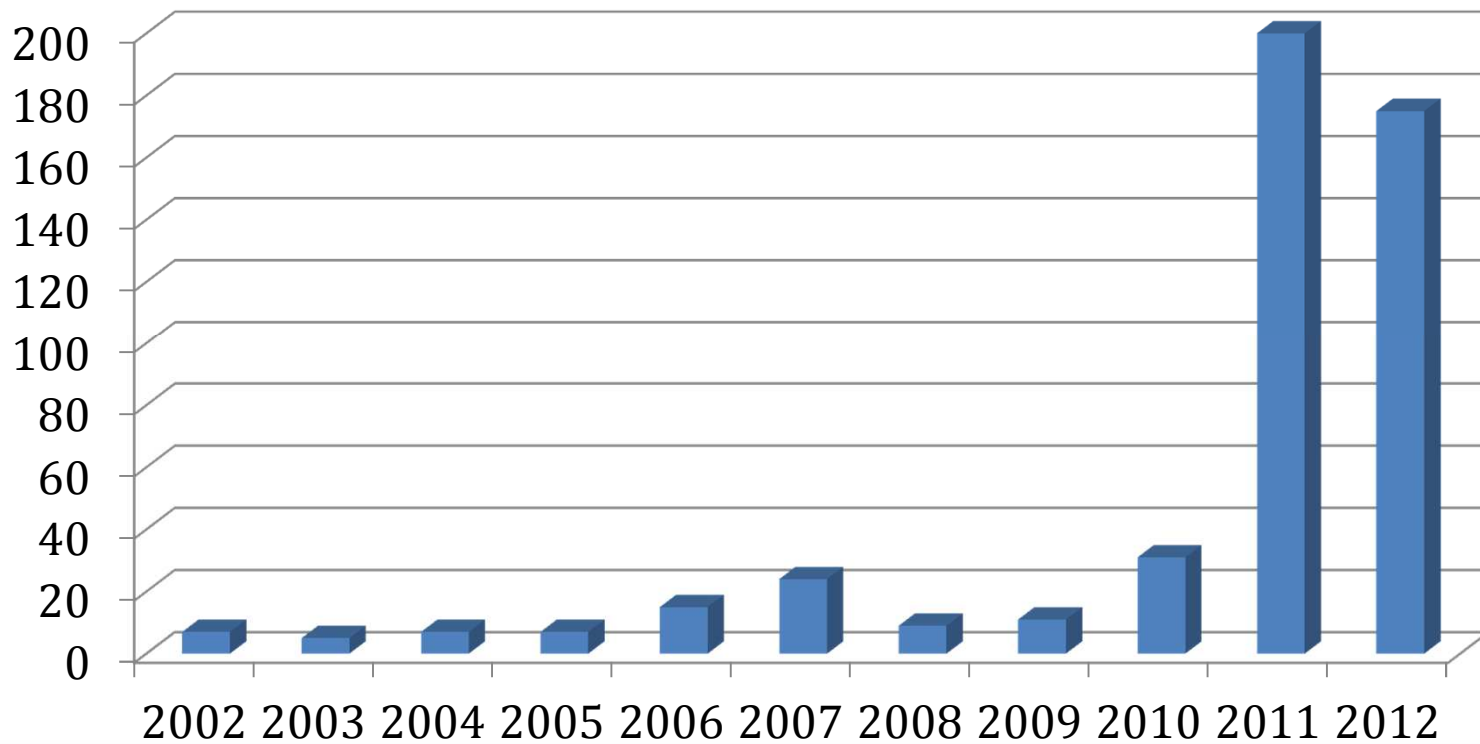
Planning

- 🏗 Reconnaissance
- 🏗 Attack Assessment
- 🏗 Logistics
- 🏗 Recruiting
- 🏗 Execution
- 🏗 Command and Control
- 🏗 Exit Strategy



Maghreb Insurgency Attack Trajectory

Attacks
Partial List



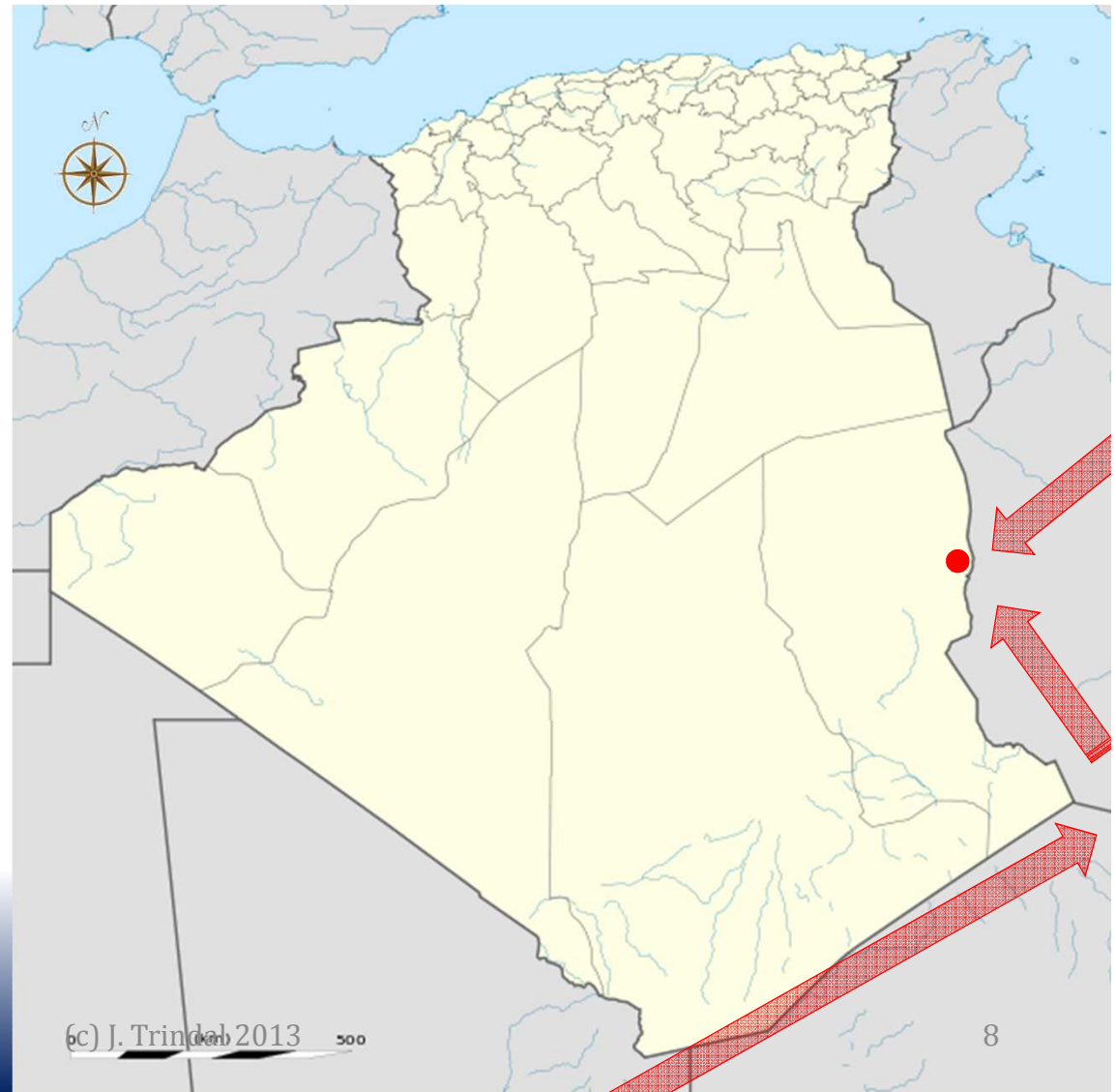
Sonatrach / Statoil / BP Oil / JGC



In Amenas Gas Project



- Multi-National Joint Venture in Wet Gas Production
- Largest Gas Project in Algeria – 9 billion m³ per annum (eq. 160K barrels of oil per day)
- Sonatrach – Algerian Owned Energy Company
- Nearly 850 Workers at Site
 - Most Algerian
 - 130+ Foreigners
 - 20:80 Ex-Pat to Algerian
- Tiguentourine Facility under expansion

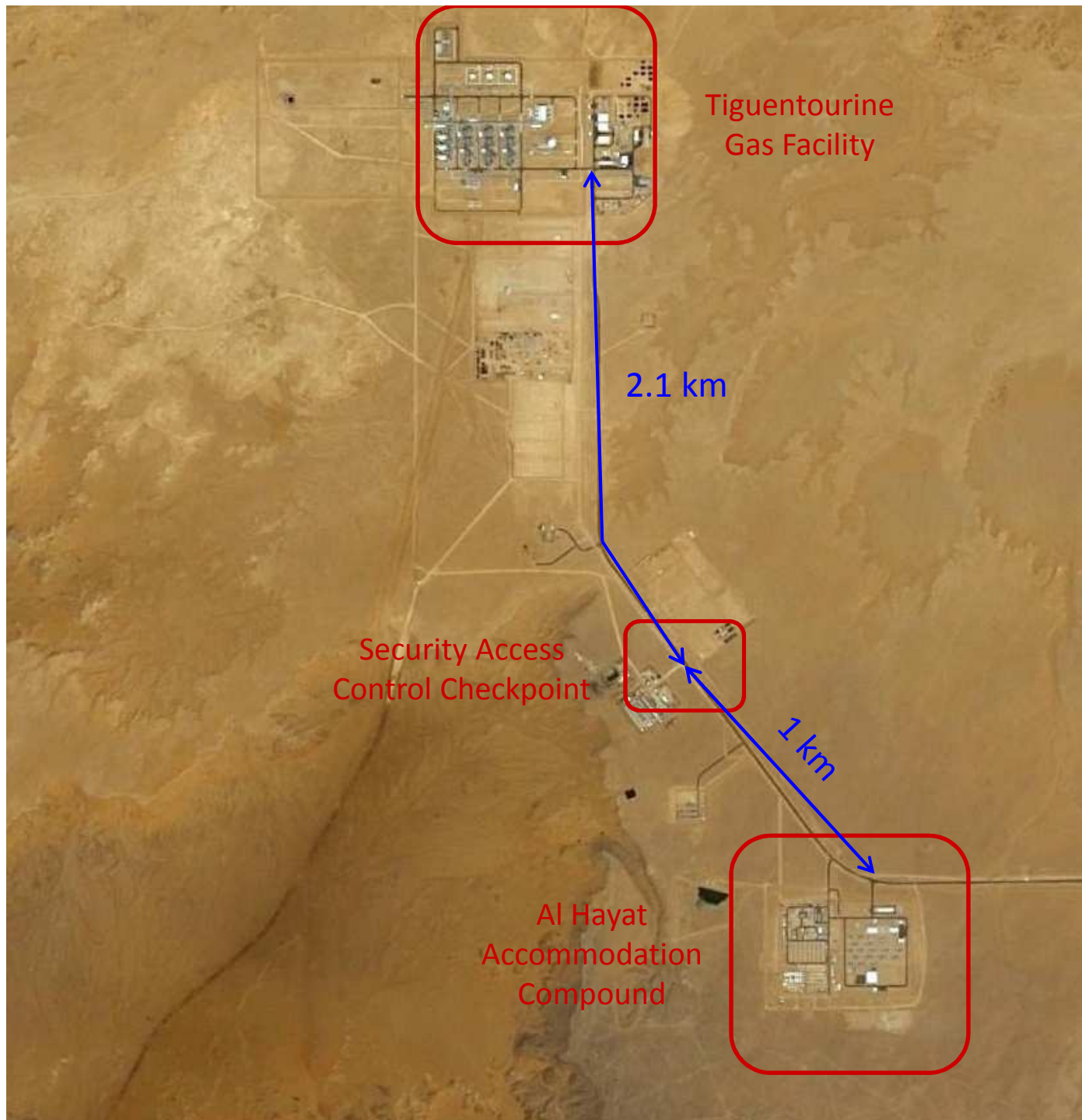


Geospatial Perspective - National



Geospatial Perspective - Local





Facility Conditions at Time of Attack

- ◆ Many Workers at Al Hayat Compound
- ◆ Al Hayat Compound Kitchen Staffed and Operational
- ◆ Light Shift at Security Checkpoint
- ◆ Reserve Security Unarmed
- ◆ Worker Shift at Gas Facility
- ◆ Buses of Workers En Route to In Amenas Airport

Tiguentourine Facility



(c) J. Trindal 2013

Ground View



Attacker's Configuration

Attack Team

- 🔫 Over 33 Attackers
- 🔫 Divided into 3 Assault Teams
- 🔫 Mixed Fighters / Shahids
- 🔫 Reported – 2x CAN
- 🔫 Led by Former AQIM Commander
- 🔫 Assembled in Libya
- 🔫 Transport Various Vehicles to Target



Mokthar Belmokthar
Operations Commander







Weapons & Munitions






Assault Operations

Objectives



Tactical:

-  Seize Site
-  Seize Foreign Hostages
-  Delay Response Forces
-  Maximize Casualties
-  Communicate Messaging
-  Destroy Site












Operational:

-  Control Site
-  Control Hostages
-  Communicate

Strategic:

-  Influence Foreign Gov'ts
-  Global Information Dynamic
-  Elevate Masked Brigade in AQIM

Operations Sequence:

-  Neutralize Security Forces – 1 KIA
-  Seize Control of Facility
-  Seize Accommodation Site – Al Hayat (2 KIA)
-  Assemble Hostages
-  Release Algerians, Muslims and Females
-  Disburse Hostages Around Site
 -  Move Some Hostages to Libya
-  Set Charges on Foreign Hostages
-  Set Anti-Personnel VOIEDs
 -  Use Hostages as Human Shields
-  Set Charges in Plant



Algerian Response

- 0900 Mobilization
- Flights fm Algiers
- Heavy Weapons Deployed
- HIND Helicopters Dispatched

Tiguentourine
Gas Facility

2.1 km

Security Access
Control Checkpoint

1 km

Al Hayat
Accommodation
Compound

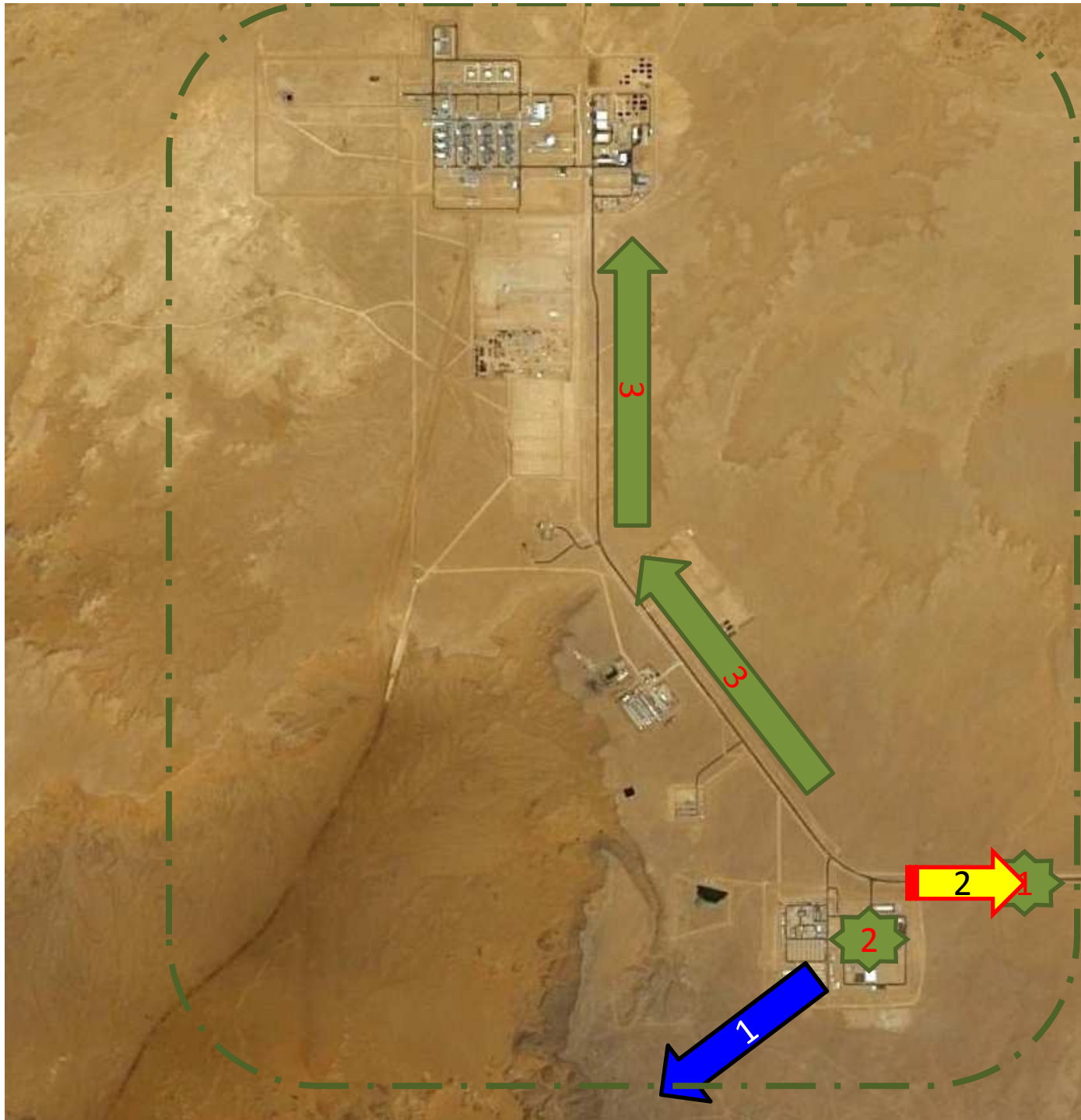
CHRONOLOGY OF ATTACK & DEFEAT

Day One – 16JAN13
0545 Local Time

1. Block Access Road
2. Engaged 2 Worker Buses & Escort
3. Neutralize Security
4. Assault Al Hayat Compound
5. Assault Gas Facility

Site Response

- ◆ Alarms Activated
- ◆ Control Room Power Cut
- ◆ Notification to Tiguentourine Control at In Amenas
- ◆ Ad Hoc Communications



CHRONOLOGY OF ATTACK & DEFEAT

Day Two – 17JAN13

1. 45 Hostages Flee
2. Militants Attempt
Mvt of Hostages in
Vehicles



Algerian Response

1. a.m. Air Assault
on 4 Vehicles
 2. 1200 hr Assault
on Al Hayat
 3. Algerian Forces
Close on Gas
Facility
- Site Fully
Cordoned Off



CHRONOLOGY OF ATTACK & DEFEAT

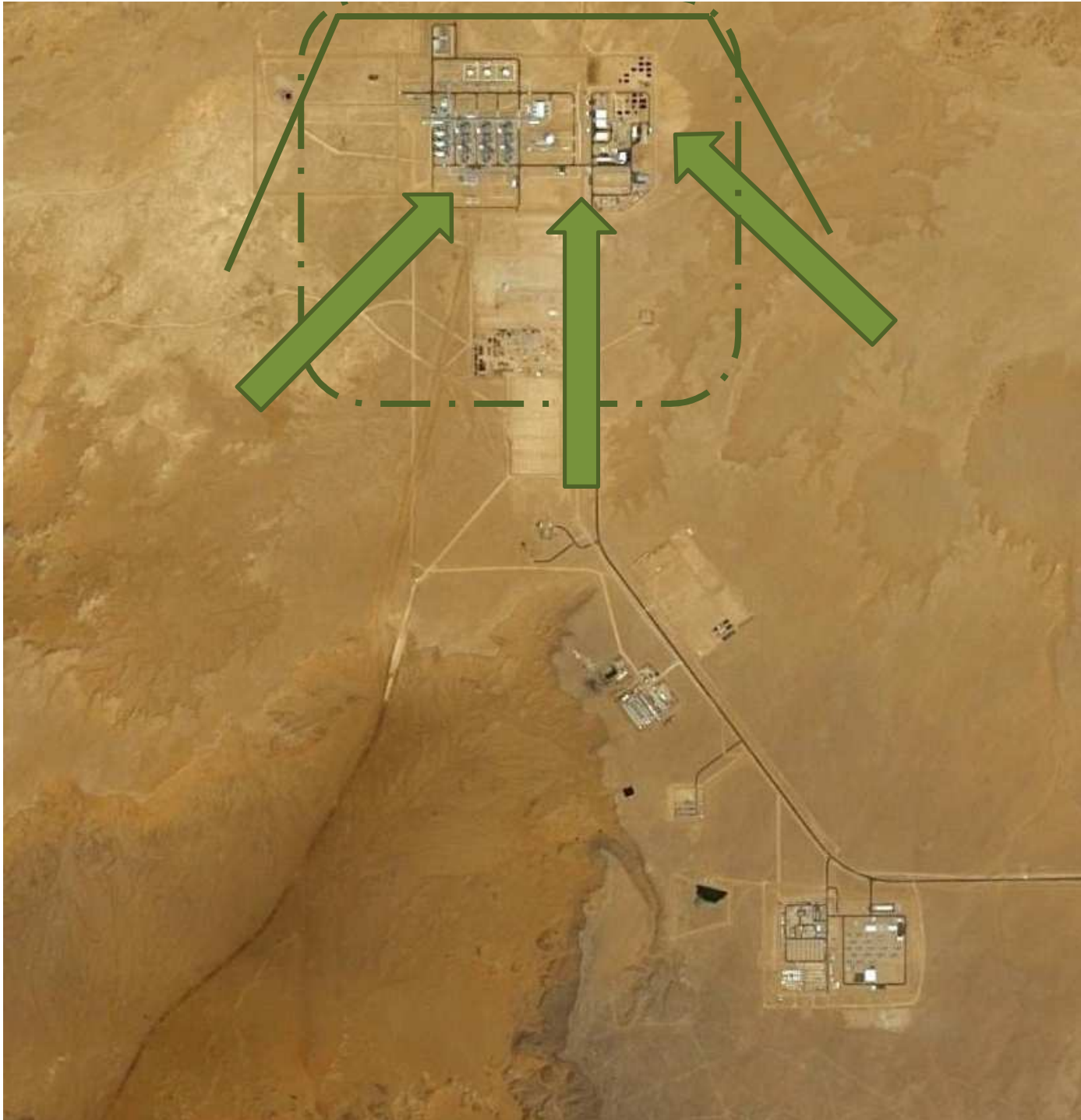
Day Three – 18JAN13

1. Negotiations
2. Sporadic Exchange of Fire



Algerian Response

1. Tighten Cordon on Gas Facility



CHRONOLOGY OF ATTACK & DEFEAT

Day Four – 19JAN13



Algerian Response

- Report of Hostages being Executed
- Algerian Forces Assault and Re-acquire Gas Facility



Aftermath

The Butcher's Bill:

- ⚔ 57 Hostages Killed
 - ⚔ Many Single Shot to Head
 - ⚔ Not all Killed in Algerian Assault
- ⚔ 3 Americans Killed
- ⚔ 10 Japanese Killed
- ⚔ 8 Filipinos Killed
- ⚔ 5 Norwegians Killed
- ⚔ 5 Britons Killed
- ⚔ 2 Malaysians Killed
- ⚔ 2 Romanians Killed
- ⚔ 1 Algerian Killed – Security Officer
- ⚔ 1 Columbian Killed
- ⚔ 1 Frenchman Killed








- 👍 32 Militant Terrorists Killed
- 👍 Est. 8 Escaped or are Missing



Why is Tiguentourine Attack a Watershed?

- 🏠 Exploits Vulnerabilities of Secure Sites
- 🏠 Protracted Kidnapping Guarantees Global Exposure
- 🏠 Counter-Attack on PetroChem Facilities
Especially Dangerous – Advantage to Attackers
- 🏠 Coordinated Attack in Remote Area
Overwhelms Response Capabilities

A “Tiguentourine” in the US?

-  Remember Terrorist Strategic Objectives
-  Add Strategic Objective of Economic Harm
-  Pre-Attack Planning and Reconnaissance Easy
-  Rural US Targets May be More Attractive
-  Heavy Weapons Logistical Challenges
-  Armed Assault is not Regarded as a Reasonable Risk
-  Tiguentourine Operation Raises the Bar

Achievable and Sustainable?



Perimeter Security at Tiguentourine Facility
21JAN13

Lessons Learned

- 🗼 Assess “at risk” and “high value” sites for extreme violence and attack vulnerabilities
- 🗼 Tighten Layered Security Access Controls
- 🗼 Conduct “multi-dimensional” threat exercises
- 🗼 Coordinate with local and regional police forces to rapidly scale up for response
- 🗼 Educate police response forces of on-site hazards to firearms and pyrotechnic diversionary devices
- 🗼 Practice Elevated Threat Levels that push perimeter vigilance
- 🗼 Enhance Staff Self-Reliance and Critical Incident Decision Making

Personal Preparatory Measures

- 🗼 Situational Awareness
- 🗼 Know ALL Avenues of Escape
- 🗼 Develop a Self-Reliant Protection Plan
- 🗼 Determine how to Communicate
- 🗼 Know Site Response Plans and Codes
- 🗼 Identify Potential Improvised Defensive Weapons (IDW)
- 🗼 Visualize and Mentally Rehearse Scenario Responses
- 🗼 Prepare to Act; Don't Hesitate

Personal Protective Measures

- 🚧 Maintain Situational Vigilance
- 🚧 Communicate Threat Alert Immediately
- 🚧 Execute Escape Plan on Situational Triggers
- 🚧 Execute Contingency Hide Plan
- 🚧 Identify Available Improvised Defensive Weapons (IDW)
 - 🔪 Blunt Trauma Weapons
 - 🔪 Cutting/Stabbing Weapons
 - 🔪 Open Hands
 - 🔪 Incapacitating Weapons
 - 🔪 Distractive Weapons
- 🚧 Vigorously Execute Contingency Defensive Attack Plan with IDWs

In Memory of:

- ✚ Frederick Buttacio – TX
- ✚ Victor Lynn Lovelady – TX
- ✚ Gordon Lee Rowan – OR
- ✚ Mohamed Lamine Lahmar – Security Guard
- ✚ 53 Other Brave Victims
- ✚ Their Families and Friends

What Are Your Questions?

Joseph Trindal
Direct Action Resilience LLC
jtrindal@policeone.com
202.359.8505

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